



POWER LINE



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Readiness Power, Forward

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Touring Camp Virginia for lessons learned



Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, AMC G-3, tours operations at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Dec. 7, where 541st Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, under the operational control of 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, spearheads RPAT and M-RPAT for units turning in gear after departing Iraq.

Story and photos by David Ruderman, 402nd AFSB PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, Army Materiel Command G-3, toured retrograde operations at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Dec. 7, as the pace and volume of Soldiers and equipment flowing out of Iraq surged.

“The flow is extremely high now,” said Lt. Col. William Cain, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander, who briefed Wyche and Brig. Gen. Steven Feldmann, deputy commanding general, Responsible Reset Task Force, on equipment turn-in operations.

Cain and his 541st Pacesetters are working long, hard days, not only to receive the massive quantities of gear as the United States meets a year-end deadline to depart Iraq, but to enable the troops coming out of the country to board flights home with a minimum of delay.

“We’ve got to get Motor Pool 9 clear. What I didn’t want to happen was: ‘Sorry, you guys can’t come through today’ . . . and the flow of equipment in and out doesn’t back up. Everything is based on flow through Motor Pool 9 to make their flights out,” he said.

Up to 2,000 Soldiers a day turn in vehicles and equipment, proceed through pre-departure processing and board flights for the United States the following day, said Cain.

“That’s the intent: Nobody has to spend any additional time hanging out here. As long as we stay caught up, everybody’s happy,” he said.

Wyche and Feldmann held in-depth discussions with Cain and Maj. Damiko K. Moore of the 541st on the nuts and bolts of the operation, honing in on bumps and bottlenecks and how best to surmount them in future operations.

“You guys have to take that institutional knowledge and help us apply it to Afghanistan,” said Wyche.

“Only two more weeks from now, we can all take a deep breath,” said Cain.



Farewell to Taji

A Soldier watches the loading of the last container at the Taji RPAT Nov. 28 as part of Operation NEW DAWN. The 402nd AFSB’s missions continue in Kuwait.

'Tis the season to take stock, Power Forward

By Stephen W. Lockridge, Deputy to the Commander, 402nd AFSB

As the holiday season approaches, the men and women of the Power Forward Team are living and working through a historic episode in America's military endeavor in Southwest Asia.

You and your fellow Soldiers, as well as our contractors and Civilians, have been pushing ahead, and pushing hard, to meet the nation's mission of withdrawing American forces from the Iraq theater of operations by the end of the year. It is a mission on a scale unparalleled in history and performed in record time. In order to provide tactical commanders the flexibility they require our retrograde mission had been pushed to the right, our time frame condensed to a period of about two months.

We have worked the mission adapting our processes as circumstances require, putting



together our traditional approach to doctrine with the agility and anticipation, that the ARCENT Commander, Lt. Gen. Brooks, has said is the "Acme of Logistics," to meet every timeline. Col. Laskodi and I want you all to know how proud we are of what you have accomplished and thank you for your commitment to the mission, to your duty and to each other.

Now we're not mission complete, just out of Iraq. We still have a lot of rolling stock and non-rolling stock to get shipped back to CONUS. We will continue working this even as we take on additional missions, set the new current force and develop proposed way ahead for the future AMC footprint in the CENTCOM theater. We've stood up LSE Kuwait at Camp Buehring to support ARCENT units with Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) to be the face to the field connecting the Power of the Army's Materiel Enterprise Forward.

For most of our fellow Americans, it is the season to gather together, to cherish and to share the blessings of life, to ease out of the fast paced demands and obligations of daily

life for a short while and appreciate the miracle of it all. For most of us here in the 402nd AFSB, and for our fellow Soldiers and Civilians here in Kuwait and throughout the theater of operations, that break in mission will be brief indeed. But bear in mind that it is in large part due to your persistence, your dedication and your competence, that thousands of our fellow Soldiers will celebrate the holidays at home with their loved ones.

The high operational tempo of our Iraq retrograde mission and the superlative execution that the 402nd AFSB and our partner units and elements have achieved in the field could be considered a Christmas present to our brothers and sisters in arms, to their friends and families at home, and to all Americans. Many Soldier families will be together this holiday season after years of ensuring our safety season after season.

So now, let us all take a moment to reflect on the amazing year receding in our rear view mirror, while we keep our eyes on the curves ahead. I wish you all a sense of pride and satisfaction for a job well done as well as the strength and courage to persist through the challenges that lie ahead. I wish you joy and peace when it becomes your turn to head home to loved ones, knowing you have given that gift to others. Take time and call your family, they are waiting to hear from you.

From Col. Laskodi, CSM Canterbury and myself, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

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AFSBn-SWA moves into super tent at Arifjan



Col. John S. Laskodi (left), 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Franz Conway, 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Southwest Asia (SWA) commander, cut a red ribbon to mark the opening of the battalion's new tactical operations center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 2. *Photo by David Ruderman, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The Army Field Support Battalion-Southwest Asia (AFSBn-SWA) moved into a new, 3,800 square foot, headquarters facility here, Dec. 2.

Lt. Col. Franz Conway, AFSBn-SWA Commander, and Col. John S. Laskodi, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Commander, made remarks and symbolically cut a red ribbon to mark the occasion.

The 3,800-square-foot facility provides work space for 50 personnel, including a conference room that can accommodate 30, said Walt Nielson, 402nd AFSB construction engineer.

The HVAC and electrical systems are designed to withstand the extreme temperature range of the region, but the interior is reminiscent of a typical office anywhere in America.

"When you are inside, there is nothing that would lead you to believe you are in a tent. The office spaces and accommodations are as good, or better, than any office building on the base," said Nielson.

"We are extremely excited about moving into probably the nicest tent in Kuwait. What a great way for our battalion to transition from its Iraq to Kuwait mission," said Conway.

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Even then, major operations will continue as the team at Camp Virginia works on the materiel the departing units have left behind.

"The last convoy arriving out of Iraq is definitely a monumental milestone for our logistics community; however, the 541st CSSB's primary mission is property accountability, so when the last convoy is processed, we will still have an enormous amount of work to do in order to ensure all the property is properly accounted for and processed back into the Army stocks in order to support other operations," said Moore.

"In the RPAT (Redistribution Property Assistance Team) process we relieve units of accountability of Retail-Theater Provided Equipment (TPE)," she said.

The inventory consists of a mindboggling array of equipment that includes gunners protection kits, Convoy Protection Device RHINO, communication equipment, warrior aid and litter kits, driver vision enhancement (DVE) sets, personnel locator beacons, vehicles of various types, material handling equipment, and a range of automated data processing equipment such as computers, printers, scanners, and audio and video equipment.

Mastering many skills

Moore said that mastering the multiple skills sets required to receive, account for and route such an enormous variety of equipment was learned in large part on the ground as the operation unfolded.



Brig. Gen. Steven Feldmann, Responsible Reset Task Force deputy commander, makes a point to (left to right) Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, Army Materiel Command G-3; Lt. Col. William Cain, 541st CSSB commander; Stephen W. Lockridge, 402nd AFSB deputy commander; and Maj. Damiko K. Moore, 541st CSSB support operations officer; during a tour of operations at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Dec. 7.

"There is a wide variety of vehicles being processed through the RPAT/M-RPAT (Redistribution Property Assistance Teams/Mobile Property Assistance Teams) yards. Our learning curve was extremely steep," Moore said.

"They initially relied on their experience and logistics knowledge base as a starting point to support the RPAT mission. Additionally, they were able to leverage the Department of the Army Civilians and contractors to learn the intricacies of an RPAT yard as the mission matured over time," she said.

In the course of running the RPAT, the 541st has be-

come a resource that Wyche knows will prove invaluable in future missions, specifically in Afghanistan.

"The 541st CSSB will be holding a Logistics Symposium to capture and share lessons learned for future missions," said Moore.

"My recommendation would be to identify personnel to become subject matter experts (SMEs) on different vehicles and associated equipment. One that comes to mind is the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) School at Red River Army Depot. These personnel could become SMEs and use the "train-the-trainer" philosophy to train the RPAT team."

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Heading home for the holidays

Soldiers (top) begin processing their vehicles and equipment at the Redistribution Property Assistance Teams (RPAT) yard at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Up to 2,000 Soldiers a day have turned in hundreds of trailer loads of equipment as part of Operation NEW DAWN. A Soldier (bottom) heads to the Mini-Gateway on her journey home.